

# In the New York THEATRES.

by EMORY B. CALVERT



OLGA PETROVA  
in "PANTHER"  
at the  
BOOTH  
THEATRE.



PAVLOVA  
& NOVIKOFF  
RUSSIAN DANCERS  
at MANHATTAN  
OPERA HOUSE.

"PEG O' MY HEART"  
COMPANY at  
STARS of CLINTON  
PERSON DANCEHALL.

## "Granny Maumee," a One-Act Play, Is a Real American Classic.

NEW YORK, April 11.—Sometimes the best things in life are not announced by a clarion call, sometimes the real genius hides his light under a bushel, sometimes the rarest flower is born to blush unseen. This cannot be said to be the case in the theatrical world at present, but every rule has its exception, which is really the proving of the rule. Thus it is that the mention of Ridgeley Torrence or his "Granny Maumee" excites but little comment.

But the fact remains that Mr. Torrence has written a play of more dramatic value than any other production seen in New York this year. It is a one act play and had but one public performance. Perhaps it will finally find its way into some theater next season for a long run. I hope so, for it will give the American public an opportunity to see a real American play, from the pen of a real American author.

"Granny Maumee" treats a new subject in a most refreshing and searching manner. Mr. Torrence has taken the American negro around whom to build his little drama, and never for a moment does he forget that he is using the negro. Every line in the play embodies the negro spirit, but the theme, lofty, ethereal, yet powerful and gripping, so transcends the subject that the audience forgets negroes were supposed to be speaking the lines. This indeed is consummate art.

"Granny Maumee" contains the

"punch" so necessary to modern drama. It has the thrill, the gripping power to make it interesting, but where it excels most of the plays of the present day, is in its rare artistry, its perfection in development, and its smoothness of dialogue and action. It might be described as a perfect jewel, each facet cut to absolute exactness and each reflecting all the glories of the light.

"Granny Maumee" herself is an aged negroess, who, although retaining some of the old African Voodoo superstitions, has embraced Christianity. At the opening of the play her great granddaughter, Pearl, is preparing a bed for the coming of her sister, who is bringing home a baby born out of wedlock.

This, from the negro point of view, is not considered such a monstrous sin. Granny has prepared an elaborate ceremony for the reception of the new man child to her home, and as she is blind, she awaits the coming with keener interest. To touch this child, to feel its soft, clinging warmth, will be her supreme delight.

Presently Sapphie arrives with her child and Pearl is horrified to find that it is white. The secret must be kept from Granny.

Years before Granny's son, Pearl's and Sapphie's grandfather, was lynched for a crime which he did not commit. A man named Lightfoot was responsible for this lynching and Granny with all the pride of her ancient negro blood and the touch of the African savage still in her breast has never forgotten the crime and has kept it ever green in her memory.

Granny's desire to "see" the baby becomes so great and her prayers for the power of sight so fervent, that

vision is restored to her. The white child lies visible before her. She demands to know who its father is. Her grief and rage are boundless when she learns that he is the grandson of the Lightfoot, who took her son from her.

In a scene fraught with intense interest she burns young Lightfoot in effigy and lays an ancient voodoo curse on him. She believes that by charm she has taken the girl's will from them and she plans to exert this charm over young Lightfoot and to burn him at the stake.

As she turns to look into the fire, the vision of her son appears and tells her to cast aside her charms and let the white man go. He has forgiven him.

In the meantime the girls have been lying in a hypnotic trance, and when Lightfoot's knock is heard on the door Granny arouses them and falls dead at their feet. She has gone to join her son.

This, of course, is a mere rough sketch of the action, but in that one act the whole history of the negro race in America is set forth.

"Peg O' My Heart."

I wonder how much longer that delightful comedy, "Peg O' My Heart," will run in New York? "Peg," with Miss Laurette Taylor in the cast, has made theatrical history, for Miss Taylor, the author and the play in its long run of two years. And the play is just as much of a drawing card now as it was a year ago. At present Oliver Morosini has five companies presenting this comedy on the road. The piece has been seen in practically every town in the country of over 10,000 inhabitants, and it is safe to say that each

## Working To Reduce Human Scrap Heaps

Removal of the Causes of Poverty Is the Greatest Task of Philanthropic Bodies and the Most Important.

By MARGARET BERGEN,  
Associate Secretary of the American Association of Societies for Organizing Charities.

THE object of all modern philanthropy is to reduce the human scrap heap. While this heap is not so large in highly civilized countries as in others, and where the greatest philanthropic activities are found for its reduction, the appearance of a spectacle that the heap of failures and failures of every year is a "cure" has come to be the rule of action for every phase of social life.

Prevention of the greatest task.

How to keep people well is the object of medical men today, as well as how to cure their diseases. How to prevent men and women from becoming criminals and paupers occupies the thought of the philanthropist. On how to care for them after they are made.

Some of the leaders of philanthropy believe that crime and poverty can be abolished—the "human scrap heap" eliminated from civilization. This cannot be done in a day, but it is the business of every man and woman, both from a religious and from a business standpoint, to work toward this reduction and final abolition.

Old Plan a Dangerous One.

In the past, one of the cures for poverty of any form was the giving of material relief, just as doctors treated most diseases with one kind of medicine. Now, the eyes of the social worker, to give food, shelter, clothing or other necessities of life to a needy family without determining the real cause of the poverty, is as dangerous as for a physician to continue administering opiates without eliminating the complications that cause the suffering.

The victim in the one case becomes a chronic pauper, and in the other he becomes a drug fiend.

With the advance of medical science and of social science, the physician and the social expert while alleviating suffering as rapidly as it appears, also inquire most minutely into the circumstances of the patient or of the needy family. One plans his future treatment on the findings of his diagnosis, the other on the findings of his investigation. Both results reveal the causes of the suffering. Should the diagnosis or the investigation be faulty, the sick person or the needy family is worse off at the end of the year than when their sufferings began. But should the diagnosis or the investigation be correct, under careful and devoted treatment, a healthy person or an independent family will crown the efforts of the skilled scientists.

### Work of the Associated Charities.

For many years the Associated Charities stood almost alone in its belief in the principle of the investigation of causes and of the prevention of pauperism, but today all the agencies for the social betterment of every class of dependents have joined its ranks and all agree that each individual in any sort of distress requires a kind of treatment peculiar to his own character and need.

While agencies are organized for specific objects, such as the cure of the sick, the homeless, the neglected, the criminal, etc., they are all much concerned in the question of why their beneficiaries are sick, or homeless, or neglected, or criminal.

Conserving Philanthropic Effort.

With the coming of an Associated Charities to El Paso, the philanthropic efforts of its good people will find that by its work of rehabilitating families, by its coordinating and thereby conserving, all philanthropic efforts, the progress along the lines of social betterment will keep step with the wonderful progress the city is making along civic and commercial lines.

company can go back over its itinerary and draw new houses. In many cases return engagements have led to violations of the fire law regarding the standees in various parts of the city. The company in Cincinnati "Peg" played three engagements and the theater manager clamored for a fourth. At the last week in El Paso, the company played to more than 12,000. "Peg" is probably the best paying play of the season.

The company in which Miss Marion Dentler assumes the role of "Peg," has had two experiences seldom enjoyed by theatrical companies. On Tuesday, May 1, the company presented the play at Auburn, N. Y., prison and last month gave two performances within the walls of Clinton state prison at Dannemora, N. Y.

Sarah Bernhard gave a performance before the prisoners of San Quentin prison in California on her last tour, and said that she never played before a more enthusiastic and appreciative audience, though not more than five convicts understood French.

Miss Dentler and her company have not met with greater success any place than they did at Dannemora.

## AMUSEMENTS.

### AT THE UNIQUE TODAY-TOMORROW.

The Unique has secured "Traffic in Souls," a six part feature, that comes here direct from Los Angeles, where it was run two weeks to enormous crowds. It packed thousands of people into Weber's theater for two weeks in New York and is still being shown in New York. It is a picture that every woman, man and child should see.

The first show starts at 11:30 today and a show is given every hour and 40 minutes following. The admission will be 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children.

The press has highly praised this picture all over the United States and is also endorsed by the women's clubs everywhere.—Advertisement.

### EL PASO KIDS ARE HAPPY.

The announcement that Gentry Bros' Famous Shows, which are so dear to the heart of every boy and girl in El Paso, will exhibit in El Paso for two days, Monday and Tuesday, April 20 and 21, is glad news, both to the youngsters and a majority of their parents. The big free street parade will be given through the downtown district next Monday, April 20, at 10:30 o'clock. The circus grounds will be at the corner of Myrtle and Cotton ave-

## Sister: Read My Free Offer!



I am a woman. I know a woman's trials. I know her need of sympathy and help. If you, my sister, are unhappy because of ill-health, if you feel that for household duties, social pleasures, or daily employment, write and tell me just how you suffer, and ask for my free ten days' trial of a home treatment suited to your needs. Men cannot understand women's sufferings. What we women know from experience, we know better than any man. I want to tell you how to cure yourself at home at a cost of about 12 cents a week. If you suffer from women's peculiar ailments causing pain in the head, back, or bowels, feeling of weight and dragging down sensation, falling or displacement of pelvic organs, causing kidney and bladder weakness or constipation and piles, painful or irregular periods, catarrhal conditions and discharges, extreme nervousness, depressed spirits, melancholy, desire to cry, fear of something evil about to happen, creeping feeling along the spine, palpitation, hot flashes, weariness, yellow complexion with dark circles under the eyes, pain in the left breast or a general feeling that life is not worth living.

I INVITE YOU TO SEND TODAY FOR MY FREE TEN DAYS' TREATMENT and learn how these ailments can be easily and surely conquered at home without the dangers and expense of an operation. When you are cured, and able to enjoy life again, you can pass the good word along to some other sufferer. My home treatment is for young or old. To Mothers of Daughters, I will explain how to overcome green sickness (chlorosis), irregularities, headaches, and leucorrhoea in young women and restore them to plumpness and health. Tell me if you are worried about your daughter. Remember it costs you nothing to give my home treatment a ten days' trial, and I will send all in plain wrappers postpaid. To save time, you can cut out this offer, mark your last name and return it to me. Send today, as you may not see this offer again. Address: MRS. M. SUMMERS, Box H, SOUTH BEND, IND.

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